

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-02

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TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652 N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

INDEPENDENT ECONOMICALLY ORIENTED DAILY PANORAMA
HAS QUESTIONED THE CREDENTIALS AND UNITY OF
MANY NATIONS ATTENDING THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE. PANORAMA
NOTED AUGUST

17 THAT "A MORE JUST DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD'S
RICHES IS NOBLE BUT NOT EASILY ATTAINABLE GOAL, GIVEN THE
ANTAGONISMS SEPARATING TODAY'S WORLD. FIRST OF ALL, THE NON-
ALIGNED COUNTRIES, WHICH SHOULD BE UNITED, ARE FAR FROM IT...
THE MOST STRIKING EXAMPLES BEING THE ARAB LEAGUE NATIONS." THE
ARTICLE WENT ON TO CITE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA,
LIBYA AND SUDAN, KENYA AND UGANDA, NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA,
SALVADOR AND HONDURAS.

SEVERAL LEADERS OF SO-CALLED NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WERE NOTICEABLY
ABSENT, CONTINUED THE DAILY. "FIDEL CASTRO..GAVE AS HIS EXCUSE
THE NEXT ELECTION WHICH REQUIRE HIS PRESENT IN CUBA." BUT IS
CASTRO REALLY NON-ALIGNED, ASKED PANORAMA, RECALLING A VERY
LIVELY ARGUMENT ON THIS SUBJECT CASTRO HAD WITH LIBYA'S KHADDAFI AT
THE LAST SUMMIT.

THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT ONLY TWO LEADERS
COULD HAVE REAL INFLUENCE AT THE MEETING: TITO FOR BEING
A RESPECTED LEADER AND THE FIRST TO DETACH HIMSELF FROM
STALINIST RUSSIA, AND INDIRA GHANDI WHO, DESPITE CRITICISMS,
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CONTINUES TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY.

THE ABOVE IS THE ONLY "COMMENTARY" ON THE COLOMBO SUMMIT
APPEARING THUS FAR IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. USE OF AFP COVERAGE,
HOWEVER, HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE.
GOMEZ

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